Stillwater County

Demographic & Economic Information for

Photo courtesy of Donnie Sexton, Travel Montana

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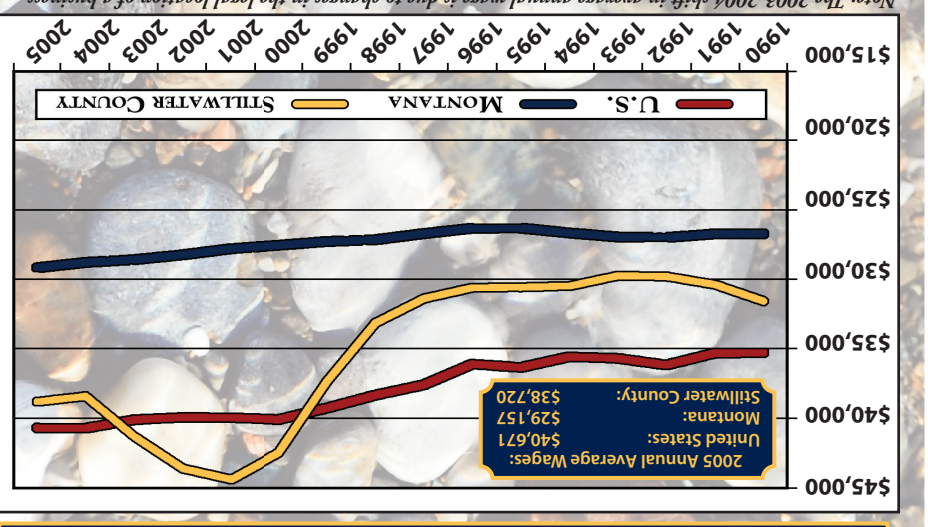
Annual Average Wages, 1990 to 2005 (In 2005 Dollars)



Note: The 2003-2004 shift in average annual wage is due to changes in the legal location of a business and does not reflect an actual economic shift in the Stillwater economy.

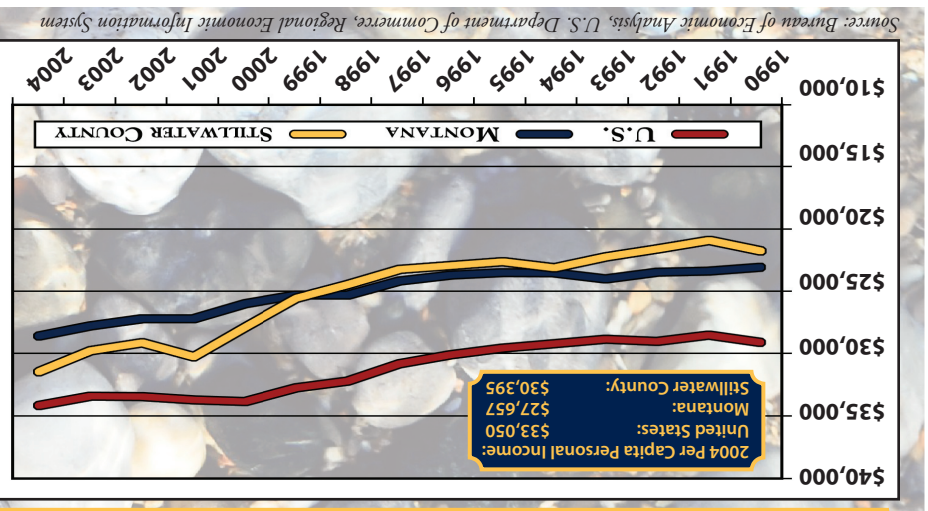
Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

Annual Average Labor Force - Stillwater County

Year	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
2000	4,423	4,224	199	4.5%
2001	4,512	4,341	171	3.8%
2002	4,498	4,315	183	4.1%
2003	4,351	4,193	158	3.6%
2004	4,541	4,384	157	3.5%
2005	4,448	4,305	143	3.2%

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS)

Per Capita Personal Income, 1990 to 2004 (In 2005 Dollars)



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Regional Economic Information System

Stillwater County

Located in south central Montana, Stillwater County is the state's twenty-sixth most populous county, with an estimated 8,493 residents in 2005. Columbus, the county seat and a shipping center for surrounding farm and ranch lands, is the state's thirty-sixth largest city, with a population estimated at 1,897 in 2005.[1] Other cities and towns in Stillwater County include Absarokee, Dean, Fishtail, Limestone, Molt, Nye, Park City, Rapelje, and Reed Point.

The Stillwater Mining Company, headquartered in Columbus, is one of the world's leading producers of platinum group metals and the only significant primary producer of palladium in the western hemisphere.[2]

Tourism also plays an important role in Stillwater County's economy. From the Beartooth Absaroka Wilderness Area to the Stillwater and Yellowstone River Valleys, Stillwater County has no shortage of outdoor recreation opportunities. The Hailstone and Halfbreed National Wildlife Refuges are part of Stillwater County's Big Lake Complex, which is known for its abundance of waterfowl and migratory birds.

Mining was Stillwater County's number one industry subsector in terms of employment in 2005. The other significant subsectors included Manufacturing, Educational Services, and Accommodation & Food Services. Some of the fastest employment growth from 2004 to 2005 took place in the Manufacturing, Retail Trade, and Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services subsectors.[3]

[1] *U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program*

[2] *Stillwater County Chamber of Commerce, www.stillwater-chamber.org/communities.php?itemid=38&catid=142*

[3] *Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Research and Analysis Bureau, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) Program*

Resources for Stillwater County

Chamber of Commerce

Stillwater County Chamber of Commerce
P. O. Box 783
Columbus, MT 59019
(406) 322-4505
E-mail: info@stillwater-chamber.org
www.stillwater-chamber.org

Economic Development

Beartooth RC&D
604 West Front Street
P. O. Box 180, Joliet, MT 59041
Phone: (406) 962-3914
E-mail: info@beartooth.org
www.beartooth.org

Newspaper

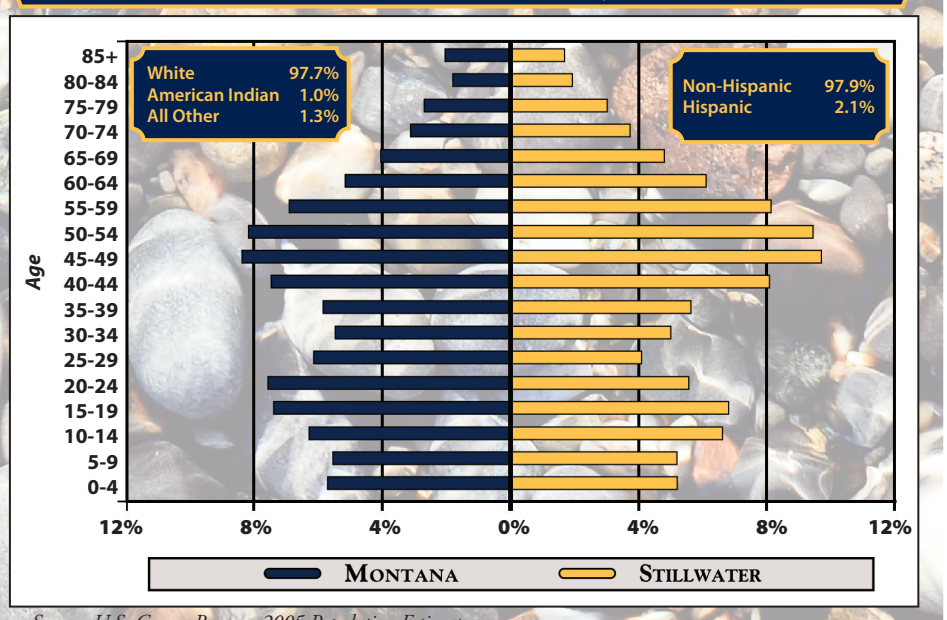
Stillwater County News
P. O. Box 659
Columbus, MT 59019
Phone: (406) 322-5212
www.stillwatercountynews.com

Population for Stillwater County & Related Areas

	Total Population					
	Census	Estimates				
Geography	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Montana	902,195	906,098	910,395	917,885	926,920	935,670
Stillwater County	8,195	8,376	8,454	8,447	8,428	8,493
Columbus	1,748	1,820	1,856	1,879	1,890	1,897
Balance of Stillwater County	6,447	6,556	6,598	6,568	6,538	6,596

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Distribution of Population by Age
Montana and Stillwater County, 2005



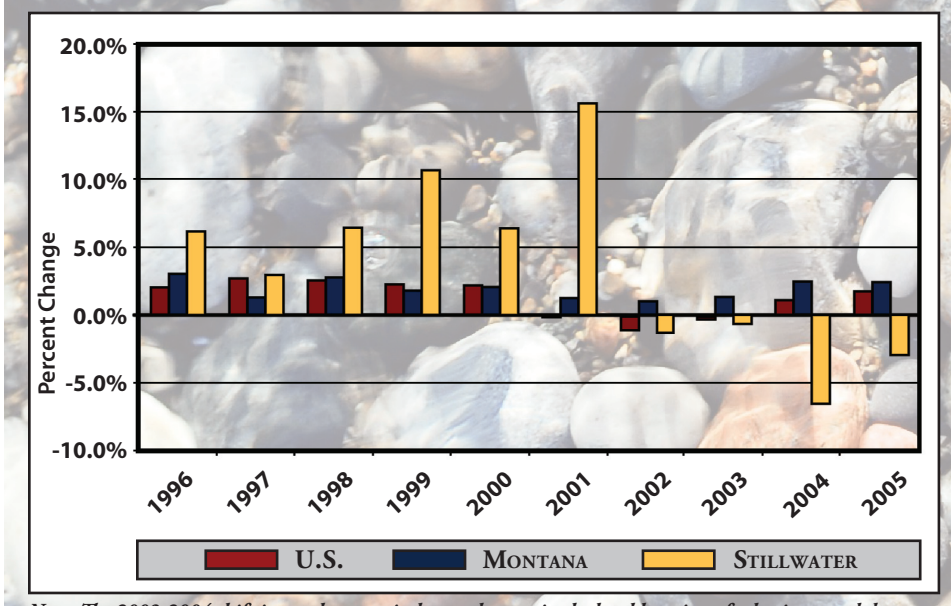
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 Population Estimates

Highest Level of Educational Attainment
(Population 25 years and older)

Educational Attainment	Stillwater County	Montana	U.S.
Less than High School Diploma	12.5%	12.8%	19.6%
High School Diploma (or equivalent)	39.1%	31.3%	28.6%
Some College	25.1%	25.6%	21.0%
Associate Degree	5.5%	5.9%	6.3%
Bachelor's Degree	13.1%	17.2%	15.5%
Master's Degree	3.2%	4.6%	5.9%
Professional Degree	1.2%	1.7%	2.0%
Doctoral Degree	0.4%	0.9%	1.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Percent Change in Employment: 1996 to 2005
U.S., Montana, and Stillwater County



Note: The 2003-2004 shift in employment is due to changes in the legal location of a business and does not reflect an actual economic shift in the Stillwater economy.

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

Top 10 Private Employers in Stillwater County
(Based on 2nd Quarter 2006 Data - Listed in Alphabetical Order)

Business Name	Size Class	Business Name	Size Class
Beartooth Manor	4	Special K Ranch	4
Beartooth Mtn. Christian Ranch	4	Stillwater Community Hospital	5
IGA Plus	5	Stillwater Mining Company	9
McDonalds	4	Timberweld Manufacturing	5
Montana Silversmiths	6	Town Pump	4

Employment Size Class Coding: Class 9 = 1000+ employees, Class 8 = 500 to 999 employees, Class 7 = 250 to 499 employees, Class 6 = 100 to 249 employees, Class 5 = 50 to 99 employees, Class 4 = 20 to 49 employees, Class 3 = 10 to 19 employees

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW) This list includes ONLY private industry employers subject to unemployment insurance. Railroads and government agencies are excluded.

Agricultural Statistics - Stillwater County

Farms

Farms: (number)	552
Land in farms (acres)	890,326
Average size of farms (acres)	1,613
Farms by size: (number)	
Less than 1,000 acres	352
1,000 acres or more	200
Farms by value of products sold and government payments received: (number)	
Less than $100,000	492
$100,000 or more	60
Farms by type of organization: (number)	
Family, Individual, Partnership	496
Corporation, Cooperative, Trust	56

Livestock Inventory and Crops Harvested

Livestock and Poultry Inventory (number)	
Cattle and calves	46,809
Hogs and pigs	(D)
Sheep and lambs	5,954
Horses and ponies	1,757
Bison	477
Chickens (layers and broilers)	949
Crops Harvested (acres)	
Corn for grain	454
Corn for silage or greenchop	1,958
Wheat for grain, All	25,202
Winter wheat for grain	13,317
Durum wheat for grain	(D)
Spring wheat for grain	(D)
Barley for grain	8,700
Oats for grain	589
Sunflower seed, All	(D)
Soybeans for beans	0
Hay, haylage, grass silage	51,291

Operator Demographics

Primary occupation: (number)	
Farming	339
Other	213
Place of residence: (number)	
On farm operated	464
Not on farm operated	88
Years on present farm: (number)	
Less than 10 years	166
10 years or more	386
Age group: (number)	
Under 55 years	278
55 years and over	274
Average age of operators: (number)	55.7

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2002
(D) - Not Disclosable

Employment by Industry - Annual Averages 2005 - Stillwater County

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	302	3,139	$38,720
TOTAL PRIVATE	265	2,672	$41,017
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING	7	30	$43,767
Crop production	1	*	*
Animal production	4	29	$45,214
Agriculture & forestry support	2	*	*
MINING	8	1,143	$65,638
Mining, except oil and gas	5	1,103	$65,062
Support activities for mining	3	40	$81,522
UTILITIES	6	18	$49,897
CONSTRUCTION	53	95	$25,560
Construction of buildings	21	32	$20,721
Heavy and civil engineering construction	6	5	$37,732
Specialty trade contractors	27	58	$27,047
MANUFACTURING	18	331	$28,669
Food manufacturing	2	*	*
Textile mills	1	*	*
Textile product mills	1	*	*
Leather and allied product manufacturing	1	*	*
Wood product manufacturing	3	*	*
Printing and related support activities	1	*	*
Chemical manufacturing	1	*	*
Nonmetallic mineral product mfg	1	*	*
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	1	*	*
Transportation equipment manufacturing	1	*	*
Furniture and related product mfg	2	*	*
Miscellaneous manufacturing	3	*	*
WHOLESALE TRADE	18	53	$43,297
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	8	*	*
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	8	29	$43,161
Electronic markets & agents and brokers	3	*	*
RETAIL TRADE	30	234	$16,188
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	3	23	$28,414
Furniture and home furnishings stores	3	*	*
Electronics and appliance stores	1	*	*
Building material & garden supply stores	2	*	*
Food and beverage stores	4	87	$14,041
Health and personal care stores	1	*	*
Gasoline stations	8	76	$11,572
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	2	*	*
General merchandise stores	1	*	*
Miscellaneous store retailers	3	*	*
Nonstore retailers	2	*	*
TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING	6	10	$17,149
Truck transportation	4	7	$20,185
Support activities for transportation	1	*	*
Postal service	1	*	*
INFORMATION	4	12	$42,212
Publishing industries, except Internet	2	*	*
Telecommunications	2	*	*
FINANCE AND INSURANCE	4	31	$32,350
Credit intermediation & related activity	1	*	*
Securities, comm. contracts, investments	1	*	*
Insurance carriers & related activities	2	*	*
REAL ESTATE AND RENTAL AND LEASING	7	11	$19,413
Real estate	6	*	*
Rental and leasing services	1	*	*
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES	24	51	$23,963
MANAGEMENT OF COMPANIES AND ENTERPRISES	1	*	*
ADMINISTRATIVE AND WASTE SERVICES	9	8	$14,756
Administrative and support services	8	*	*
Waste management and remediation service	1	*	*
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	1	*	*
HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	15	208	$15,276
Ambulatory health care services	4	12	$11,577
Hospitals	1	*	*
Nursing and residential care facilities	2	*	*
Social assistance	8	18	$7,254
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND RECREATION	11	29	$10,537
Museums, historical sites, zoos, & parks	1	*	*
Amusements, gambling, and recreation	10	*	*
ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES	27	262	$9,457
Accommodation	4	26	$10,690
Food services and drinking places	23	236	$9,323
OTHER SERVICES	17	62	$18,642
Repair and maintenance	5	18	$26,018
Personal and laundry services	2	*	*
Membership associations & organizations	7	34	$16,530
Private households	3	*	*
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	37	468	$25,598
Local Government	15	395	$24,486
State Government	12	37	$29,841
Federal Government	10	35	$33,610

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)
** Data Not Disclosable*

The QCEW program compiles data reported by all employers covered under Montana unemployment insurance. (Totals may not add due to nondisclosure of confidential industry data or to rounding.)